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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/735,363	12/12/2003	Anthony E. Faltesek	SYS-P-1290 (8364-91043)	1789
7590	05/24/2005			EXAMINER PHAM, LAM P
			ART UNIT 2636	PAPER NUMBER
				DATE MAILED: 05/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/735,363	FALTESEK ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Lam P Pham	2636	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 December 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/13/04</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-14, 27-30 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Crandall, Jr. et al. (US 2002/0149491 A1).

Regards claim 1, Crandall disclose a regional information system comprising:
a plurality of detectors (12) for monitoring a region;
control circuitry (14) coupled to the detectors, the control circuitry at least in part in response to indicia (inputs) from the detectors, establishes at least one ingress path into a portion of the region indicated by at least some of the detectors, as being the location of a hazardous condition; the ingress path is the path indicated by the flashing red diagonal bar to direct evacuees away from the hazardous area and alternatively direct responder to the area, as seen at least in Figures 1-3; [0029] to [0032], [0034] to [0036].

Regards claim 2, Crandall disclose the control circuitry at least in part in response to indicia from the detectors, establishes at least one egress path from the portion of the region as seen in paragraph, [0035].

Regards claim 3, Crandall disclose ingress path indicating elements coupled to the control circuits as seen in Figures 1; [0030] to [0031].

Regards claim 4, Crandall disclose at least some of the ingress path indicating elements comprise electrical circuitry for emitting at least one of an audible or a visual indicium as seen in [0029] to [0030].

Regards claims 5-6, Crandall disclose the control circuitry comprises at least one of tree evaluation software, neural networks implementing software, fuzzy logic software or pattern recognition software for establishing at least one ingress path as seen in [0035].

Regards claims 7-9, Crandall disclose the control circuitry alters the at least one ingress path over time in response to the hazardous condition as seen in [0015], [0018], [0035].

Regards claim 10-11, Crandall disclose the control circuits visually and audibly identify the original ingress path and then visually identify the altered ingress path in response to the hazardous condition as seen in [0015], [0018], [0032], [0035].

Regards claim 12, Crandall disclose a plurality of path identifying devices (10, 16) coupled to the control circuits as seen in Figures 1-3; [0031] to [0033].

Regards claim 13, Crandall disclose the path identifying devices comprise at least one of visible output devices (10) or audible output devices (16) as seen in [0030] to [0031].

Regards claim 14, Crandall disclose the control circuit includes executable instructions for changing paths and for altering activated path identifying devices in accordance therewith as seen in [0035].

Regards claim 26, Crandall disclose a method comprising:
receiving a plurality of condition indicating signals from a group of different sources (sensors 12) associated with a region;
evaluating the signals, and, responsive thereto determining at least one of an egress path from or an ingress path into the region as seen in Figures1-3; [0029] to [0036].

Regards claim 28, Crandall disclose rejecting a different, potential egress path which may change overtime as seen in [0036].

Regards claim 29, Crandall disclose modifying the at least one egress path in response to the condition indicating signals as seen in [0031] and [0036].

Regards claim 30, Crandall disclose enabling path indicating annunciators to identify the modified egress path as seen in [000031] and [0036].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 15-26 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crandall, Jr.

Regards claim 15, Crandall disclose a path defining system adapted for use with a plurality of regional monitoring units (12), the system comprising:

a central processing unit (14) to receive inputs from members of a plurality of monitoring units;
the processing unit processes a plurality of inputs received from the monitoring units, and responsive thereto determines at least one acceptable egress path for exiting a region while excluding at least one unacceptable path as seen in figure 1; [0029] to [0032], [0035].

However, Crandall fail to specifically disclose a first circuitry and a second circuitry for performing the tasks of receiving and processing the inputs from monitoring units by the processing unit respectively. Since the processing unit performs both functions, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in art to alternatively use the processing unit with the advantages of faster, cheaper, smaller and more efficient. One of ordinary skilled in the art would recognize that the processor would comprise at least one circuitry configured for receiving inputs from monitoring units and at least one circuit or a program or a processor for processing inputs to perform the above tasks.

Regards claim 16, Crandall disclose the second circuitry (processor) limits acceptable egress paths (safest routes) to those that are associated with non-hazardous condition indicating inputs from at least some of the monitoring units as seen in [0032], [0035].

Regards claim 17, Crandall disclose the processing circuitry excludes paths that are associated with hazardous condition indicating inputs from at least some of the monitoring units as seen in [0032], [0035] to [0036].

Regards claim 18, Crandall disclose the processing circuit comprises executing a plurality of prestored instructions as seen in [0035].

Regards claim 19, Crandall disclose the processing circuitry comprises a plurality of executable instructions for, at least in part, determining at least one ingress path in accordance with a predetermined criterion (change in environment condition detected by sensors) as seen in [0035] to [0036].

Regards claim 20, Crandall disclose executable instructions establish different ingress and egress paths as seen in [0031], [0032], [0035].

Regards claim 21, Crandall disclose the central processing unit responsive to at least one egress path, for activating a plurality of path indicating annunciators (10, 16) as seen in [0030] to [0032]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art to recognize that the processing unit would comprise a circuit or program for activating a plurality of path indicating annunciators.

Regards claim 22, Crandall disclose at least some of the annunciators comprise devices having at least audio outputs (16) and others comprise devices having at least visual outputs (10) as seen in [0030] to [0032].

Regards claim 23, Crandall disclose the processing unit responsive to at least one ingress path for activating a plurality of path indicating annunciators (10, 16) as seen in [0031] to [0032].

Regards claim 24, Crandall disclose at least some of the annunciators comprise devices having at least audio outputs and others comprise devices having at least visual outputs as seen in [0031] to [0032].

Regards claims 25, Crandall disclose different ingress path and egress path annunciators; ingress annunciators are red flashing diagonal bar and egress annunciators are green-letter Exit signs seen in [0031] for illustration.

Regards claim 26, Crandall disclose executable instructions for modifying determined paths as seen in [0035] to [0036].

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Colberg et al. (US 6842120) disclose a luminous alerting device.

Bligh (US 6646545) discloses a color-coded evacuating signal system.

Honigsbaum (US 6499421) discloses a tactiovisual distance-to-exit system.

Lehman et al. (US 6150943) disclose a laser director for fire evacuation path.

Schriever (US 4385586) discloses an escape/rescue system.

Watanabe (US 5140301) discloses a guidance apparatus in case of emergency.

Sweeney (US 5572183) discloses laser light fire evacuation system.

Warden (GB 2312982 A) discloses a way-finding guidance evacuating system.

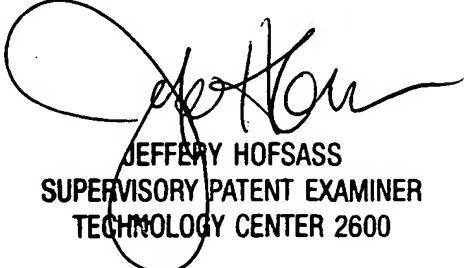
Birch (GB 2214681 A) discloses an emergency evacuation and guidance means.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lam P Pham whose telephone number is 571-272-2977. The examiner can normally be reached on 9AM-6PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffery A Hofsass can be reached on 571-272-2981. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Lam Pham
April 25, 2005.



JEFFERY HOFSSASS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600